



Arizona Department of Public Safety **DIGEST**

Vol. 40, No. 5

'Courteous Vigilance'

July/August 2006



Chow time

The food line was the place to be at the Arizona Highway Patrol/Department of Public Safety's 75th Anniversary Cookout on June 30 at the DPS headquarters building in Phoenix. A festive group of more than 400 people, which included DPS employees, retirees, distinguished guests, and friends of the agency, attended the extravaganza which marked the last major celebration of this year's special anniversary. In addition to food, attendees were treated to anniversary related speeches by past and present leaders at DPS, law enforcement demonstrations/displays featuring agency employees, and the opportunity to purchase commemorative anniversary items.

DPS receives largest operating budget increase in agency history

by Phil Case, DPS Comptroller

The fiscal year 2007 (FY 2007) State budget signed on June 21 includes the largest operating budget increase in DPS history. The increase of \$43.4 million equals a 23.6 percent jump in the Department's appropriated budget. Only the 30.3 percent increase of \$5.2 million in 1972 represented a larger increase in percentage terms.

Overall, the budget is tremendously positive. The biggest disappointment in the budget is the lack of funding for a desperately needed replacement facility for the Southern Regional Crime Laboratory.

The operating budget increase includes:

- \$6,878,300 for the General Salary Adjustment (effective March 11, 2006)
- \$2,768,100 for sworn pay adjustments
- \$6,118,400 for the State's share of retirement system rate increases
- \$1,539,700 for increased health insurance costs
- \$888,100 for 11 criminalist positions
- \$344,200 for 2 detectives and 1 criminal intelligence analyst to track down sex offender absconders
- \$429,900 for 5 positions in Human Resources, Procurement, and Information Technology

- \$161,700 for 4 emergency call takers
- \$777,000 for the first of 3 payments for a replacement helicopter
- \$5,520,900 for 41 Highway Patrol positions (37 officers and 4 sergeants) and 5 support staff
- \$17,000,000 to expand the gang task force (GITEM) by up to 100 DPS sworn employees and 100 other agency employees
- \$1,500,000 for increased motor vehicle fuel costs

The budget also includes capital appropriations of \$2,533,000 in each of FY 2007, FY 2008, and FY 2009 to begin upgrading the microwave system, which serves as the backbone of the Department's state-wide radio system. In addition, this system will serve as the backbone of a future state-wide, interoperable public safety communications system.

The General Salary Adjustment (GSA) provided an average civilian pay increase of about 6.0 percent. A portion of the pay increase came in the form of performance pay and will become "at risk" beginning in April 2007.

As required by the bill that authorized the GSA, the Department is crafting a performance pay plan that will be utilized to distribute the performance pay. Details of the plan will be shared with employees as they become available.

With respect to sworn pay, DPS was able to achieve a milestone

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From Director
Roger L. Vanderpool's
Vantage Point



As you will learn by reading the article on the cover of this issue of *The Digest*, DPS recently received the largest operating budget increase in its history.

This highly exciting increase of roughly \$43 million reflects the continued support of DPS by the Governor's Office and the Legislature.

A great deal of that support results directly from the confidence the Governor's Office and the Legislature has established in you - DPS employees.

While our historic fiscal year 2007 budget ensures we will have substantial resources to accomplish our mission, it is also creating some extreme challenges for our agency at the same time, particularly in the areas of hiring and logistics.

After all, the budget is going to allow - and require - our agency to grow substantially in size very quickly (reference the cover article for details on the record number of new positions being created at DPS).

Couple the need to fill these numerous new positions at DPS with the urgent need to fill the many positions left vacant by recent and upcoming retirements, and you begin to see the types of monumental pressures that will be falling on the shoulders of the employees in our Human Resources Bureau.

Thankfully, the Department will have the resources to increase its recruiting and hiring budget to unprecedented levels. In addition, our employee pay plans have improved and should continue to improve, a fact that will certainly make DPS a more attractive place to work.

With that in mind, I would like to acknowledge the tremendous teamwork demonstrated by the four employee groups at DPS and my Executive Staff in developing and receiving legislative approval of this year's pay plan and overall budget.

Despite these advances, we still face an uphill climb in trying to fill a record number of new positions and vacant positions in a very tight law enforcement labor market.

So, as you enjoy these exciting, unparalleled times for our agency, make sure you continue to promote the Department and let people with a high degree of integrity and skill know what a terrific opportunity it is to join the agency.

You have done a tremendous job of sending great officer candidates and civilian employee candidates the agency's way in the past, and this is obviously not a time to let up. Your efforts could help shape our agency's future for years to come.

For the record
Be healthier at DPS and at home

by Officer Jason Yeager, DPS' Use of Force Coordinator

Whether you work the road or work in an office environment for DPS, staying healthy can be a tough task. However, there are simple ways to accomplish this goal that require very little effort.

Diet, exercise and stress relief are three things that we can control daily, both at home and here at DPS, to help live healthier lives.

Diet:

When it comes to talking about diet I know most people lose interest. I'm not asking anyone to make life altering changes. However, I just hope that we can become more cognizant of what we do eat and make better choices when we have the opportunity to do so.

1. If you have the time and materials to pack a lunch, try it. It gives you the opportunity to pack healthy and can also be cheaper than eating out.

2. Bring healthy snacks to work. Bring juice, peanuts, trail mixes, fruit and other healthy snacks to work. It will help curb your appetite throughout the day and it will keep your metabolism working for you too.

3. If you do eat out, try places like Pei Wei, Paradise Bakery, Chipotle, Subway or other places that have many healthy options so you don't have to feel awkward ordering the salad when everyone else is having burgers.

You can also make healthy selections at fast food restaurants. Try chicken sandwiches or chicken strips. Remember to go light on the sauces or even leave them off. Also, many fast food restaurants are now offering salads and soups instead of fries which can help tremendously.

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DPS hosts Exploring Conference

DPS hosted the 2006 National Law Enforcement Exploring Conference in Flagstaff during the week of July 10. More than 4,000 youngsters from all 50 states took part in the week-long event.

DPS Director Roger Vanderpool was the official chairman of the event that allowed conference attendees to compete as teams in several areas of police work. Among the competitions offered were: arrest and search techniques, crime scene investigation, bomb threat response, and hostage negotiations.

Seminars were also offered to attendees, who ranged in age from 14 to 20, on gang violence, psychological profiling, effective communication, drug trafficking and border protection.

Roughly 50 employees from DPS were assigned to help facilitate the enormous conference along with officers from other agencies.

The Digest is published monthly by the DPS Community Outreach and Education Program for DPS employees and retirees.

Employees are invited to submit story ideas or stories for publication. Stories or story ideas may be submitted to *The Digest* by mail (mail drop 3350), EMS or Telephone (602-223-2545).

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The Digest can be accessed directly from the DPS World Wide Web home page at <http://www.azdps.gov/digest>.

*The Arizona Department of Public Safety
 is an Equal Employment Opportunity Agency.*



The FY 2007 budget will create a record number of new positions at DPS, especially for GITEM and the Highway Patrol Division

Budget article ...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

through the combination of the GSA and additional sworn pay adjustment funding. For the first time in recent memory, all sworn classifications are paid at the same place relative to the market. This concept is sometimes called "internal parity".

Based on an August 2005 survey, DPS sworn pay levels are 3.6 percent behind market, a dramatic improvement over the average 18 percent behind market position they occupied three years ago.

It should be noted, however, that the Department will be updating its market survey this month and that our salaries will have fallen somewhat further behind. The ability to achieve internal parity was accomplished through the support of the Department's four employee groups.

The \$6.1 million for retirement increases and \$1.5 million for

Funding for other agency personnel can only be expended on those agencies that have signed agreements with the federal government to enforce federal immigration laws. It remains to be seen how many agencies will be willing or able to do this.

Over the last four fiscal years, the average price the Department has paid for motor vehicle fuel has increased from \$1.36 to \$2.38 per gallon. With current market conditions, the average price for FY 2007 is going to be substantially higher.

The fuel budget increase of \$1,500,000 will cover the amount of last year's budget deficit but we will have to absorb a substantial deficit again this year. Department employees must continue to conserve fuel whenever possible without impacting public safety.

The inclusion of State appropriated monies in the capital budget to begin upgrading the microwave system is a crucial development. We have been struggling to get funding for this project for many

years. The hard work and persistence of employees in the Wireless Services Bureau and the Public Safety Communications Commission is greatly appreciated.

Much work remains, including accomplishing the upgrades themselves and

With a combined \$22.5 million for GITEM and Highway Patrol staffing, the Department is facing some unprecedented challenges in hiring and logistics.

health insurance costs are noteworthy. These increases equate to about \$3,800 per employee. It is the State's intent to hold employees harmless with respect to health insurance premiums. Whether this, in fact, pans out will be known when new health insurance rates are published as part of the annual benefits open enrollment.

With a combined \$22.5 million for GITEM and Highway Patrol staffing, the Department is facing some unprecedented challenges in hiring and logistics. If we are going to be successful in these endeavors, we will clearly need to greatly expand our recruiting efforts. To this end, DPS has committed \$350,000 from its base budget for recruiting and hiring.

In addition to these funds, the Legislature has supported the use of \$410,000 in GITEM funding for these efforts. The combined \$760,000 represents a five-fold increase in the recruiting and hiring budget over last year.

The \$17 million increase for GITEM is aimed at expanding the successful program's anti-gang activities while enlarging its mission to address border security issues. Of the 100 new DPS positions, 50 are intended to work on border security issues.

securing approximately \$52 million more in grant funding or State appropriations to complete the project over the next 7 years.

We had high hopes that \$14 million for a replacement Southern Regional Crime Laboratory (SRCL) would be appropriated in FY 2007; however, this was not to be. The SRCL has seen a 243 percent increase in submissions over the last 6 years, and this workload is straining the facility and the whole crime lab system beyond its capacity.

The existing facility is converted warehouse space that was never intended to function as a lab. DPS will redouble our efforts during the next budget cycle to secure funding for this essential public safety project.

No sooner have we received our FY 2007 budget than we must begin working on our FY 2008 and FY 2009 budget requests, which are due to the Governor and Legislature on September 1. Budget priorities likely to be included in the pending budget request are: employee pay, support staff, technology, recruiting and hiring, equipment replacement, and, of course, the Southern Regional Crime Laboratory.

DPS' first ever annual civilian employee training program to begin

All full-time civilian employees, regardless of assignment, must now attend yearly courses

by Kellen Chavez, State Service Intern

Starting Sept. 1, 2006, the Arizona Department of Public Safety will implement the first Annual Civilian Training (ACT) program in the history of the Department.

The training, which was spearheaded by the Operational Training Section at DPS, will require all full-time DPS civilian employees to attend a mandatory eight hours of training between the dates of Sept. 1, 2006 and June 30, 2007.

Patt Ficere, Professional Development Coordinator, said, "This is an investment from executive staff on the professional development of all DPS employees."

The training will be split between two, 4-hour classes: Preventing Inappropriate Workplace Behavior and ADA/FMLA.

The ACT classes will be taught through Arizona Government University (AZGU), and funded through monies reserved from the mandated partnership between DPS and AZGU last year.

While specific divisions require specific training for certain positions here at the Department, this is the first time that mandated training has been required for every full-time

civilian employee.

The idea for a program like ACT has lingered around the training department for a few years but the actual proposal was not written until this past January.

Ficere said, "With Lieutenant Myers, we submitted a proposal on this as a way to use up those AZGU monies. The different elements of this program were created independently and now we're combining them for this program. It's terrific how everything has fallen into place."

Ficere added that this training will be similar in concept to the Annual Officer Training (AOT) that is used annually for sworn employees. ACT, however, will continue on the fiscal year cycle rather than the calendar cycle followed by AOT.

Ficere said, "All full-time civilian employees, regardless of their job classification, will be required to take these classes. No other classes can be substituted to meet the ACT requirement."

Classes will be held primarily in Phoenix, though Ficere said that courses will be scheduled in Tucson and Flagstaff as well.

DPS employees will be able to register

for classes by accessing the Arizona Government University website, www.azgu.gov, and locating the listing of classes associated with DPS or by contacting Ficere at pficere@azdps.gov.

In addition, ACT is connected with the DPS Strategic Plan, which has three parts: promote public safety, deliver exemplary service and embody the highest standards of integrity and professionalism.

As a result of its ties with the Strategic Plan, attending ACT will be another requirement if employees are to receive their 2.5 percent "Performance Pay" in March.

There are also policies in place that penalize DPS for late cancellations and for "no shows." Cancellations must be made at least two days before the training. DPS will be fined \$10.50 for every trainee hour attributed to late cancellations or "no shows."

The Phoenix training dates and class times have been announced and as soon as AZGU finalizes the facilities, the Tucson and Flagstaff dates will be announced.

Any other inquiries can be addressed by contacting Patt Ficere, (602) 223-2745, or by visiting the www.azgu.gov website.

Newly published magazine captures incredible history of agency

Copies of the 64-page, illustrated publication are available by mail order for only \$7.00

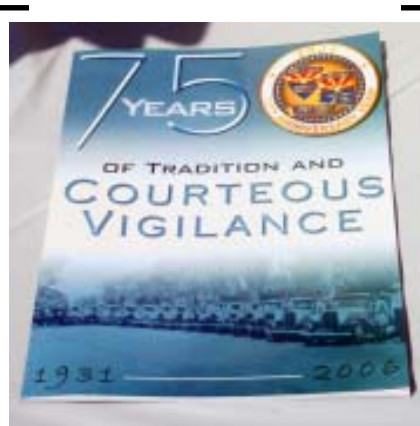
About a year ago, the Arizona Highway Patrol/Department of Public Safety 75th Anniversary Committee began work on a rather daunting, ambitious project. That project was to create a lengthy, magazine-type publication documenting the 75 year history of the Arizona Highway Patrol and DPS. The magazine would be titled "75 Years of Tradition and Courteous Vigilance."

Those active with the project conducted a number of interviews and expended considerable time cultivating the information that would appear in the journal.

Dozens of old, classic photos from the early days of the Arizona Highway Patrol and DPS were also located and readied for inclusion in the publication.

The committee's work on the project culminated this past June when the layout and design of the publication was completed and sent to a publishing company. A beautiful, full-color cover (with a glossy finish) was designed and the 64-page magazine was published thanks to the help of financial support from the Arizona Masons.

The finished publication made its debut at the 75th anniversary cookout at the DPS headquarters building on June 30. About



Glossy finish

The front cover of the newly published Arizona Highway Patrol/Department of Public Safety history magazine features a glossy, color finish.

1,000 copies were sold that day and the product has been drawing rave reviews from those who have purchased a copy.

"If you, a friend, or a family member has ever had any sentimental connection with DPS or the original Arizona Highway Patrol, you will want to own at least one copy of

this publication," said Retired DPS Lt. Col. Larry Thompson. "The publication truly captures the incredible history and spirit of DPS and the original Arizona Highway Patrol."

While the publication does not present an all-encompassing history of the Highway Patrol, it does bring to light some of the foundational decisions that were made during the agency's early years and some of the philosophy that led to the beginning of DPS.

Information in the publication is grouped into four major sections with each presenting an overview of a particular time period.

In closing, the publication is a dedicated tribute to those who have committed themselves, past and present, to the philosophy of "Courteous Vigilance" in order to protect and serve those who live in or visit Arizona.

Copies of the AHP/DPS historical magazine are now available by mail for only \$7.00. That price includes shipping and handling.

To order, simply determine how many magazines you would like to purchase, multiply that amount by \$7.00, and send a check for the appropriate amount to:

75th AHP/DPS Anniversary Committee
P.O. Box 20369
Wickenburg, AZ 85358

DPS Major Deston Coleman retires from Department after 39 years

On June 30, Major Deston Coleman, Badge No. 398, an Arizona native, retired after more than 39 years with the Arizona Department of Public Safety. He began his career with the Arizona Highway Patrol prior to the formation of DPS and entered the Highway Patrol Academy located in the west classroom on the Phoenix headquarters compound on February 15, 1967.

Coleman's first assignment was District Four- Dateland and he transferred to Payson in May 1969. Two months later while investigating a collision he and the driver of the first collision were run

the ground. We lost everything, well almost! The only thing to survive the fire was a photograph of Major Tom Milldebrandt, which had been hanging in the hallway. I have always treated Major Milldebrandt with a little more respect since then. District Ten was special and today my oldest son Dansen is the Westside District Commander and located in Sun City."

Coleman served two years in Governor Security and was then promoted to Captain serving in Human Resources, Grants Administration, Inspections and Aviation. In 1989 he was promoted to Major

with the responsibility of Grants Administration out of the Director's Office. During the next five years he would serve as Chief of Staff for the Administration Bureau and Criminal Investigations Bureau.

In 1995 Coleman was appointed Chief of the Criminal Justice Support Bureau. He later served five years as Chief of Staff for the Highway Patrol Division and completed his career as Commander of the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Bureau.

Major Coleman served on the Arizona Peace Officer Memorial Board for 18 years. His dedication to the preservation of AHP/DPS history is well documented with some of his historical displays being included in the Department's "75 Years of Courteous Vigilance" exhibit at the State Capitol Museum, which opened April 25th and concludes August 29.

Coleman will long be remembered for his leadership and work in improving the safety of the Ford Crown Vic Patrol Car. Many improvements were made and DPS became the first police agency in the world to receive patrol cars with a fire suppression system.

Coleman maintains his greatest accomplishment is his family; he is extra proud of sons Dansen and Deston Jr. who is a Sergeant in Special Investigations. The Major and his wife, Pat, have been married for 43 years and plan on spending a lot of time together with their five grandchildren. "I have been very fortunate with my career and at home," Coleman said.

Next issue of Digest will feature several more retirement stories

The recently retired employees of DPS who are featured in this issue of *The Digest* are not the only long-time employees of the agency who have retired in the past few months.

Several more employees, mostly as a result of a timing issue associated with DROPs, have also retired recently or are getting very close to their retirement dates.

The Digest will feature retirement stories on these individuals if they have served more than 30 years with DPS.

Some of the newly retired, or soon-to-be retired, employees with 30-plus years of service who we will feature soon include: Major Norman Beasley, Major William Reutter, Commander David Witter, Commander Beau Johnson, Sgt. Charles Wright, Detective Ruben Valente, Officer Larry Landers, Officer Randan Holmes, Fingerprint Technician Joyce Wharton, Operations Assistant Charlie Cleveland, Telecommunications Supervisor John Clymer, and Telecommunications Specialist James Combs.



Then and now

Left: A young Deston Coleman shortly after he began his career with the Arizona Highway Patrol on Feb. 15, 1967. Right: A recent photo of Coleman taken prior to his retirement from DPS on June 30, 2006. Coleman served 39 years with the agency in various capacities, from field assignments to administrative appointments. The Arizona native said he was very fortunate during his career.

over by a DUI vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed. Coleman was injured and the driver involved in the initial collision was killed. "I was very fortunate to survive," Coleman said.

In January 1970 Coleman moved to Glendale and became one of the original members of "The Tact Squad", a special enforcement group of 22 officers that worked throughout the state. "We would go in and take over an entire district while those officers were away receiving their annual training. I was on that squad for two years and worked in every district in the state while gaining unbelievable experience. We also supplemented the northern districts during unusual weather problems. That squad's officers were the greatest to work with - probably my favorite assignment during my career."

In 1971 Coleman transferred into Criminal Investigations - narcotics and experienced a totally different enforcement effort as he was assigned to the undercover squad. In July 1973 he was promoted to Sergeant and supervised Phoenix General Investigations, and became supervisor of the new resident agent program, which involved placing investigators outside of Phoenix and Tucson.

In 1974 Coleman was assigned to Internal Affairs. He and Sergeant Jim Moody made up that unit and reported to Director James Hegarty. Two years later he was promoted to Lieutenant and assigned to Phoenix narcotics.

Coleman transferred to the Highway Patrol Bureau in 1978 as the District Ten Commander with headquarters in Sun City. "I think I'm the only District Commander to have his District office burn to

Lt. Wendell Grasee retires from agency after 37 years of service

Lt. Wendell Grasee, who finished his law enforcement career serving as the State Capitol Police Chief, retired from DPS in June after more than 37 years with the agency.

Grasee began his career as a Cadet Patrolman with the Arizona Highway Patrol on November 11, 1968. He was learning the basics of law enforcement at the same time the Highway Patrol was merged into the newly formed Arizona Department of Public Safety.

After completing the basic training academy, Grasee was assigned to his first duty station in Casa Grande.

Over the course of his more than 37 years with DPS, Grasee has worked in a number of diverse assignments in virtually every division. Early in his career, he earned a spot on the elite "Tact-Squad," a group of highly motivated officers who responded to traffic en-

forcement needs across the state.

Eventually, as a supervisor in Narcotics and Liquor Enforcement Units, Grasee gained a reputation for his effectiveness, knowledge and expertise in challenging assignments. The unstructured environment demanded a supervisor who could provide the flexibility for undercover officers to effectively combat drug dealers yet maintain a high level of accountability. Grasee was called upon to develop a unique concept whereby officers would be trained to respond to requests for investigations which were politically sensitive or involved allegations regarding government employees.

Under his leadership, the Special Investigations Unit became one of the premier investigative units in Arizona. Grasee was

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Wendell Grasee

Pilot David Ruhlman retires from agency after 33 years of service

Rotary Wing Pilot David L. Ruhlman retired from DPS in July after serving more than 33 years with the agency.

Ruhlman began his career with DPS as one of the agency's first helicopter pilots assigned to the newly formed Emergency Medical Services helicopter program in 1972. After completing Basic Peace Officer Training in Yuma, he was assigned to District 16, which was later designated as the Emergency Medical Services Division at Falcon Field.

He transferred to Flagstaff in early 1979, where he was assigned to the newly created Northern Air Rescue Unit. From mid 1992 through early 2000, he served in the special duty assignment of Senior Pilot for the Northern Air Rescue Unit. However, he chose to step down from that assignment so he could finish his career at Air Rescue doing what he

loved most - flying.

Among Ruhlman's many accomplishments, he was chiefly responsible for developing the Aviation Bureau's Emergency Fire Suppression Program.

The Emergency Fire Suppression Program was officially implemented during the 1996 fire season, starting with the Northern Rescue Unit. In response to demands for this service from other fire councils and fire districts around the state, all four Air Rescue units have now been trained and equipped to provide emergency fire suppression services.

This program has provided Arizona communities with an immediate forest and brush fire suppression capability where dedicated fire fighting resources may not be immediately available.



David Ruhlman

Officer/Paramedic "Oly" Ruiz retires from agency after 36 years

DPS Officer/Paramedic Orlando "Oly" M. Ruiz retired from DPS in August after serving more than 36 years with the agency.

Ruiz, who holds a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice, began his career with the Department as a Cadet Officer on August 1, 1970. After completing training at the Phoenix Headquarters Training Facility, he was appointed an Officer and assigned to District 4 in Dateland.

In 1972, he was reassigned to his hometown of Yuma, where he continued to work in District 4 until early 1979.

In 1977, Ruiz was selected to attend a six-month paramedic training program at the University of Arizona Medical School. After completion of the program, he was assigned to the Northern Air Rescue Unit, in Flagstaff, where he spent the majority of his career as

an Air Rescue Flight Paramedic.

Sadly, on July 22, 1987, Ruiz was seriously injured in the crash of a DPS Ranger helicopter on the San Francisco Peaks, near Flagstaff. However, after a five-month recuperation period, he recovered and returned to duty as an Air Rescue Paramedic.

Among his many accomplishments, Ruiz was awarded the Department's Lifesaving Award in 1993, after rescuing an injured parachutist from a ledge in the Lower Colorado River Gorge.

He also taught an Emergency Medical Technician Course at Yavapai and Coconino Community Colleges for more than 22 years.

In addition, Ruiz assisted in conducting first aid testing for the National Law Enforcement Explorer Scout Program held at Northern Arizona University in 2002 and 2006.



Orlando "Oly" Ruiz

Officer Charles "Duke" McNeese retires from agency after 32 years

Officer Charles "Duke" McNeese retired from DPS this past June after nearly 33 years of service to the agency.

McNeese began his career with the Department on Sept. 1, 1973 as a member of Cadet Class 24. Upon graduating from the academy, McNeese was assigned to the Sun City and Wickenburg areas.

In 1974, McNeese transferred to Phoenix and patrolled Interstate 17. McNeese was then assigned to the Governor's Security Detail in 1975.

In 1978, McNeese transferred to the Armory where he stayed until he transferred to the Criminal Investigations Division in 1981 to work Organized Crime and Narcotics.

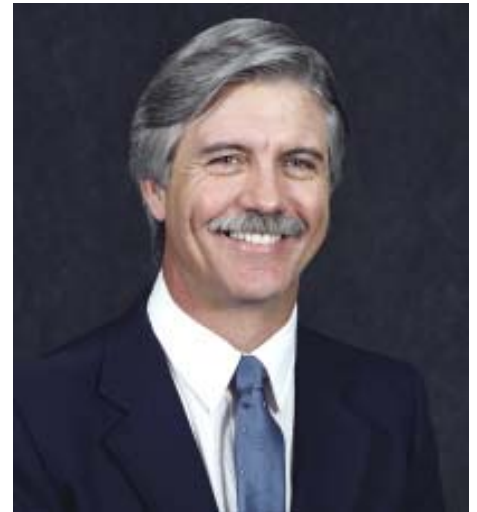
From 1983 through 1985, McNeese was attached to the FBI Narcotics detail and later in 1985 he was assigned to the U.S. Customs

Air Smuggling Unit.

He remained there until 1988 when he was transferred to the Clandestine Lab Unit, but soon returned to the Highway Patrol in 1989.

In 1990, McNeese transferred one final time to the Firearms Training Unit where he completed his career with the Department. There McNeese assisted in the development of the annual Firearms Instructor In-Service training, held in Kingman, and helped in the design and construction of DPS' range at the Ben Avery Shooting Facility.

McNeese also received three Director's Unit Citations over the course of his career at the Department. Notable assignments for McNeese included the manhunt for the Tyson/Greenawalt gang, manning roadblocks in the Sunland Gin area, and the Morenci riots.



Charles "Duke" McNeese

Detective Jay Atwater retires from agency after 32 years of service

Detective Jay Atwater retired this past June after 32 years of service to DPS.

Born and raised in Phoenix, Atwater decided to join DPS after going on a ride-along with a highway patrol officer stationed in Wickenburg in 1973. On September 1 of that year, he enrolled in the DPS Highway Patrol Academy.

Atwater graduated, despite being a whole three pounds below the officer weight requirement, and was assigned to the Painted Desert/Petrified Forest.

A year and a half later, Atwater transferred to District 2, Flagstaff Highway Patrol. Atwater served there from 1975 until 1995 when he accepted a 5-month assignment to the Winslow area.

In 1996, Atwater returned to District 2 and later that year transferred to the Crimi-

nal Investigations Division in Flagstaff where he remained until his retirement this past June.

Almost as soon as he entered the Criminal Investigations Division, he proved himself as a skilled, sharp detective, especially in complex, multi-jurisdictional narcotics investigations.

Atwater received awards at various points during his service in Flagstaff, including a Director's Unit Citation as a member of the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) unit at DPS.

He also received the Highway Patrol District 2 Officer of the Year award in 1992.

In 2002, Atwater was acknowledged as the 2002 Criminal Investigations Division Detective of the Year and received another Director's Unit Citation in 2004.



Jay Atwater

Sgt. Randy Mullenau retires from agency after 30 years of service

DPS Sgt. Arthur "Randy" Mullenau retired from DPS in June after serving more than 30 years with the agency.

Mullenau began his career with DPS on January 26, 1976. After graduation from the Academy, he was stationed at Kearny. In 1977, he transferred to San Manuel. In 1982, he transferred to Safford where he served for the remainder of his career.

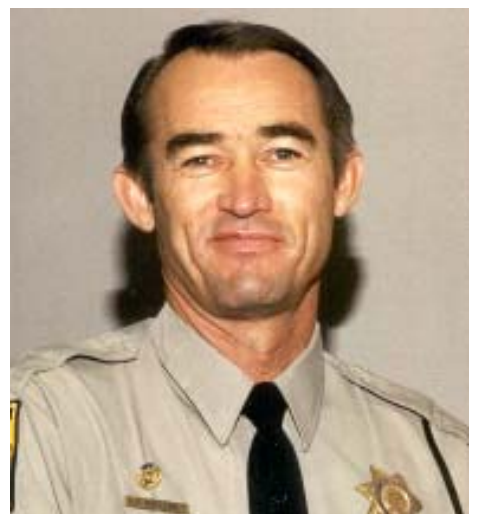
Since being promoted to Sergeant in 1997, Mullenau has served as the Highway Patrol Supervisor for the Graham/Greenlee County area.

He had a varied and interesting career. Some of the most harrowing times came during the 1983 mining strikes at Morenci. Mullenau and his fellow officers at the front gate faced hundreds of strikers armed with bats, clubs and pipes.

Although much of his career was spent with the Highway Patrol Division, Mullenau did serve for three years in the Criminal Investigations Division. There he worked investigations involving drugs, homicide, suicide and internal affairs. For six of those months, he was assigned to the Border Alliance Group in Cochise County.

He also served as Chief Firearms Instructor for District 9. Furthermore, he instructed radar and was an official coordinator and instructor for the DARE program.

During his career, Mullenau received many accolades, including: District 7 Officer of the Year and the Sons of the American Revolution Officer of the Year in 1987. He was also named Southern Highway Patrol Bureau Employee of the Year in 2001 and received four Directors Unit Citations.



Randy Mullenau

Sgt. Gregory Girard retires from agency after 33 years of service

Sgt Gregory Girard retired from DPS on June 30 after 33 years of service.

Girard began his law enforcement career in 1970 as a Vermont State Police Trooper. He joined DPS on September 16, 1972. After training, he was assigned to Lake Havasu City and later transferred to Bullhead City.

In 1975, Girard was selected to attend the first Department-sponsored Paramedic Training Program. After graduating from the program and becoming certified as a paramedic, he was assigned to the Central Air Rescue where he served as an Air Rescue helicopter crew member for the next 15 years. During that time, he participated in hundreds of lifesaving and medical missions.

He was promoted to Sergeant in 1990, and was assigned to Highway Patrol in Phoenix as a squad supervisor.

From 1993 through mid 1997, he served as Administrative Sergeant for the Northern and Phoenix Metro Highway Patrol Commands. He later served as Squad Sergeant for the Phoenix Metro DUI Squad and for Highway Patrol District 13.

In 2000, Girard transferred to the Aviation Bureau, where he served as the Bureau's Operations Sergeant up until retirement.

Among Girard's accomplishments, he was mainly responsible for developing the Department's Phlebotomy Training Program which has received national acclaim and is believed to be the first of its kind in the U.S.

As a member of the Department's Honor Guard for the past eleven years, Girard frequently volunteered his time to represent the Department at many special events and memorials.



Gregory Girard

Detective Steven Hinderliter retires from agency after 38 years

Detective Steven Hinderliter retired from DPS this past June after more than 38 years of service with the agency.

Hinderliter began his career with the Arizona Highway Patrol on November 1, 1967, as a police clerk at Phoenix headquarters.

In 1967, he was assigned to Kingman, where he remained until mid 1968 when he was assigned to the Communications Section of the Highway Patrol in Phoenix.

In 1968, he was appointed to Probationary Cadet Patrolman and completed training at the academy. In 1970, after two and one-half years in communications, he transferred to District 5, Phoenix metro freeways.

In 1975, Hinderliter transferred into the Motorcycle Division of the Highway Patrol in Phoenix where he remained until 1985.

Later in 1985, he transferred into Crimi-

nal Investigations where his first assignment was with the Organized Crime Unit. In 1987, he was assigned to the Fugitive Unit where he remained until retirement.

During this assignment he was also a member of the Special Operations Unit from 1990 to 1995, and assigned to the FBI Violent Crimes Task Force for two years.

Hinderliter received numerous letters of commendation and compliments throughout his career with the Department. One such letter in 1994 from the commanding officer of the South Los Angeles Homicide Bureau complimented Hinderliter, and other Fugitive Unit personnel, for his excellent work in the apprehension of a homicide suspect who fled to Phoenix.

In 1996, he received the Directors Unit Citation while assigned to the Fugitive Unit.



Steven Hinderliter

Detective William "Bill" Whitlow retires from DPS after 35 years

Detective William "Bill" Whitlow retired from DPS this past June after more than 35 years of service to the agency.

Whitlow began his career with the Department of Public Safety on February 1, 1971. After graduating from the academy, he was assigned to Wickenburg.

In 1973, he transferred to the Phoenix area working District 10 and District 5.

He transferred to the Motorcycle Division in 1975. In early 1978, he transferred to the Criminal Investigations Bureau working in North Central Investigations.

By 1980, Whitlow transferred back to Highway Patrol Motors where he worked for five years. In 1985, he transferred back to Criminal Investigations working in Narcotics, Intelligence, and Organized Crime.

Since late 1996, he has been assigned to

the Vehicle Theft Task Force where he has assisted in several major investigations and recovered over a thousand stolen vehicles.

During his time with the Vehicle Theft Task Force, several awards were presented to him and the Task Force including the Director's Unit Citation in 1998 and 2002, the International Association of Chiefs of Police Vehicle Theft Award of Merit in 2002 and 2003, the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission Community Award presented in 2003, the International Association of Auto Theft Investigators Award of Merit presented in 2003, and the North American Export Committee Special Recognition in 2005.

His commitment and dedication to the Department of Public Safety and the citizens of the State of Arizona have been reflected in his many years of public service.



William "Bill" Whitlow

Sgt. Don Quaintance retires from DPS after 33 years of service

Sgt. Don A. Quaintance, affectionately known by many of his co-workers simply as "Q", retired from DPS this past May after more than 33 years of service to the agency.

Quaintance began his career with the Department on March 1, 1973. He graduated number one academically from the DPS Highway Patrol Academy.

He was then assigned to the Phoenix freeway, District 5. In 1976, he transferred to District 10, Freeway Patrol in Phoenix.

He stayed in the Phoenix patrol area until 1977 when he transferred to the Criminal Investigations Bureau.

After one year in Intelligence, he transferred back to the Highway Patrol in Phoenix.

In 1979, Quaintance promoted to Sergeant and was assigned to District 8 in Tucson.

He stayed in District 8 until 1989 when he transferred to Commercial Vehicle Safety Specialists. In 1990, he returned to District 8.

In 1982, Quaintance received a Director's Unit Citation as the CVSS Supervisor as he supervised two CVSS Officers who were part of his assigned District 8 squad.

From 1992 to 1994, he also supervised two canine officers as part of his assigned District 8 squad.

In 1986, 1991 and 1993 Quaintance received a Director's Unit Citation as District 8 was recognized for its excellence as one of the best patrol districts in the state.

Throughout his career he earned the respect of many. He made many friends and influenced many of his peers, to include the newer generation of highway patrolmen.



Don Quaintance

Sgt. John Cothrun retires from agency after 33 years of service

Sgt. John H. Cothrun retired from DPS this past June after 33 years of service to the agency.

Cothrun began his career with DPS on August 1, 1972 as a cadet in the Academy. In 1972, he transferred from the Training Section to the Highway Patrol in Seligman where he remained for the duration of his career.

Over the course of his career, he demonstrated rock solid commitment and provided stability for the remote communities of Seligman and Ashfork. During his career he distinguished himself by volunteering as a high school coach in football and track.

He also competed in the Police Olympics throughout the country and won numerous gold and silver medals. Additionally, Cothrun volunteered his time over the years as a coordinator for the annual Special Olympics

Torch Run.

During the copper miners strike in Morenci in the early 1980's, Cothrun served several tours of duty as a front line officer. His stature and physical ability made him an excellent "point man" during these demonstrations.

In 1994, he promoted in place to the rank of Sergeant. During 12 years as a Sergeant he served as a mentor for young officers.

His efficiency has contributed greatly toward the Department's goal to improve law enforcement efforts, particularly on I-40 through Yavapai County.

For many years, the motoring public will say, "Halfway across Route 66, you don't need to look too far to see the legacy left behind by a Highway Patrolman they called 'Big John'."



John H. Cothrun

Sgt. Larry Lizarraga retires from agency after 32 years of service

Sgt. Larry A. Lizarraga retired from DPS this past June after more than 32 years of service to the agency.

Lizarraga began his career with DPS on September 1, 1973, as a Cadet Officer. His first assignment was to the Avondale area where he served as a patrol officer for four years.

In 1977, Lizarraga transferred to Narcotics in an undercover investigator's position where he remained until 1980 when he was assigned to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Task Force.

In 1983, he was promoted to Sergeant and again assigned to Narcotics and worked in that capacity until 1985, when he was assigned to the Highway Patrol in the Phoenix-area.

By 1990, he was assigned to Narcotics

once again and remained in that position until he transferred back to the Phoenix-area Highway Patrol in 1997.

Then, in 1999, he transferred to the Highway Patrol in the Buckeye-area where he finished his long, successful career.

During his more than 32 years of service with DPS, Lizarraga became known as a dedicated and productive employee whose enthusiastic and positive attitude were a constant example of what DPS represents.

His efficiency, both within the Criminal Investigations and Highway Patrol Divisions, has contributed greatly toward the Department's goal of providing exceptional law enforcement services in Arizona.

He was commended on numerous occasions for his willingness to help others, both peers and the public.



Larry A. Lizarraga

International cooperation displayed at 2006 PISA conference involving DPS



Different countries, similar police responsibilities

Several employees from DPS attended the 2006 Policía Internacional Sonora-Arizona Conference held this past May in Guaymas, Sonora, Mexico. The two-day conference was held to establish better communications between the law enforcement agencies of Arizona and Sonora to combat criminal activity along the border. In the photo above, a panel of key law enforcement officials at the conference listen to a speech by Lic. Abel Murrieta Gutierrez, the Attorney General for the State of Sonora. Located second from right on the panel is Chief Mikel Longman who oversees DPS' Criminal Investigations Division. In the photo below, which was taken during a break at the conference, are (from left) DPS Border Liaison Officer Martin Marquez, Mexican Federal Highway Patrol Commander Juan Miguel Arias Soto, Mexican Federal Highway Patrol Commander Hector Luevanos Becerra, and DPS Border Liaison Officer Gerard Navarro.



DPS and plaintiffs settle 2001 lawsuit on racial profiling

DPS and a group of civil plaintiffs, represented by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), have agreed to settle a 2001 class action lawsuit that alleged DPS used racial profiling to pull over and search motorists in northern Arizona.

On July 28 in Phoenix, U.S. Magistrate Judge Lawrence O. Anderson, U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona, approved the settlement agreement in *Arnold, et. al. v. Arizona Department of Public Safety* which resolves all claims filed by the plaintiffs.

The complaint was filed after 11 individuals alleged highway patrol officers repeatedly targeted which motorists to pull over by their race or ethnicity.

Both sides voluntarily entered into the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals Mediation Program to settle the case which culminated in the July 28 hearing before U. S. Magistrate Judge Anderson.

Under the terms of the settlement, the plaintiffs' lawsuit is dismissed.

Although DPS does not admit any wrongdoing, it has affirmatively agreed to take proactive measures to prevent racial profiling.

Several DPS officers receive recognition

DPS Highway Patrol Officer Tony Bread of Phoenix was recently presented with the Elks' Officer of the Year award at the civic group's state convention.

DPS Motorcycle Officer Joel Martin of Phoenix received a special recognition award from the Department in early August for his development of a successful DUI Warrant Apprehension Program.

DPS Highway Patrol Officer Timothy Heinrich of District 6 was recently named the DPS Officer of the Year by the Moose Lodge in Arizona City.

DPS Highway Patrol Officer Otto Walters of District 3 was presented with the Holbrook Elks' Lodge DPS Officer of the Year award on June 26.

DPS Highway Patrol Officer Edward Simpson of District 4 was recently presented with an "outstanding law enforcement officer" certificate by the Sunrise Optimist Club in Yuma.

DPS officer saves injured hawk, releases it into wild months later

by Kellen Chavez, State Service Intern

DPS Highway Patrol Officer Rod Ferguson didn't expect anything out of the norm on a usual morning of patrolling the highways near Buckeye in January.

That morning, however, harbored an experience very unique in the nearly 16 years Ferguson has served with Department.

Ferguson said, "I was heading down the road (State Route 85) and I saw this big ol' hawk sitting in the number one lane where it divides up near Robin's Butte."

The hawk had swooped down too close to the roadway and had been clipped by a passing vehicle, breaking its wing.

"I went up and blocked traffic because he was doomed if we wouldn't have done that," Ferguson said. "He was just standing there, and we got Game and Fish to come

out to take a good look at him."

The employees of the Arizona Game and Fish Department informed Ferguson that the hawk would survive, it was just a matter of whether it would have to remain in captivity or recover fully enough to be released.

Game and Fish Department employees took the bird to their rehabilitation center, where the bird was helped by a number of expert volunteers. According to Ferguson, the center is funded by private donations.

On July 6, after six months of rehabilitation, the hawk was released back into the wild by none other than the man who had saved it.

Ferguson said, "Releasing him was really cool. There were actually two of them and the other one was really mean. The other one just flew out of there but the one I'd

saved kind of jumped out.

"It actually startled me when it jumped out. After it jumped out, it just stood on the ground for a second and then he took off."

Ferguson said he was told the reason the bird's rehabilitation was so successful was because it was just a couple years old.

The hawk was released near the location where Ferguson found it because the Game and Fish Department concluded the area was likely the bird's original habitat and home.

Chaplains from DPS attend week-long training in Indiana

The International Conference of Police Chaplains held its 33rd Annual Training Seminar in Indiana the week of July 10.

DPS Chaplains Chuck Conn, Bob Cutlipp, and Bill Glennie attended the event. Courses covering such diverse topics as Post Trauma Syndrome, Officer Death and Injury, Responding to a Crisis, and Working with Autism were offered.

Additionally, an advanced course in Disaster Response was offered. The event was hosted by the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute and the Indiana FOP.

One of the more memorable moments of the seminar was the memorial service honoring law enforcement officers who lost their lives in the line of duty since July 1, 2005. Recognition was also given to police chaplains who died during the past year as well.

A total of 476 chaplains, many accompanied by spouses and children, were present representing faiths from six nations.

Nine employees get promotions in July

A promotional ceremony was held July 31 at the DPS headquarters building in Phoenix. Donna Shields was promoted to EEO Officer/Investigator, Jimmy Jertson was promoted to Publications Editor, Noranne Lenox was promoted to Operations Assistant, John Maddux was promoted to Sergeant, and Jeremy Knoll was promoted to Telecommunications System Maintenance Supervisor.

Four other employees received promotions the same day but were unable to attend the ceremony. These employees were Rick Knight who was promoted to Public Information Manager, David Spirk who was promoted to Supervising Criminalist, Curt Reinbold who was promoted to Supervising Criminalist, and David Worthen who was also promoted to Supervising Criminalist.

Health tips ...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Exercise:

Exercise can be hard to do if you work long hours and have families and other responsibilities to worry about like most of us do. If you live close to the metro areas, the facilities at the DPS headquarters buildings in both Phoenix and Tucson have gyms that are free to employees and family members. If you prefer something closer to home, most public gyms have very reasonable monthly fees.

You can also find inexpensive resistance bands and light weights at stores like Target or Sports Authority. At the very least you can do simple calisthenics like push-ups, sit-ups, leg lifts, or stretches while you watch the news at night or while you are on a break. Things around the house or the office such as books, soup cans and furniture can be utilized as weights or bench equipment.

If it has been awhile since you have exercised, don't hurt yourself. Start slow with simple stretching and a walking regiment. After a few weeks increase the intensity and time of your workouts to meet your needs.

Stress Relief:

Stress affects our physical and mental well being. Large amounts of stress can lead to heart problems and other serious health conditions. Relieving stress can be done in many simple ways.

1. Stretching relieves tension and gets blood flowing to essential areas of the body and brain.

2. Stress ball or Handgrips. These fun tools not only help relieve tension and take

your mind off of stress but they are excellent for increasing grip and wrist strength. You can also use them while on the phone or while waiting in traffic.

3. Breathing. Deep breaths and slowed breathing can relax the body, increase circulation and calm the mind.

4. Music. Any type of music, as long as its music you enjoy can provide temporary relief from a stressful situation. Music can also make mundane or unpopular work go by faster.

5. Gripe Session. Sometimes just talking about a stressful situation or a problem with friends can help ease the tension. Just remember after you're through complaining, try to come up with positive solutions as well.

6. More than anything, most of us do not get enough sleep. The body needs time to heal and regenerate from your busy stressful day and a good nights rest is sometimes the best cure.

We can't make healthy decisions all the time but making a plan that includes something from all three areas will give you a solid foundation to start with. Remember that the hardest part of most lifestyle changes is sticking with it. It takes a minimum of sixteen days for most things to become a habit. Try bringing a friend to help motivate you and make exercise more fun. Also don't forget to modify your plan to meet your needs. Do what works for you, and as your life changes, so should your plan.

Look in future issues of *The Digest* as we expand on these topics and more. Or contact me if you have any questions or needs.

Stay Safe, Stay Healthy

Jason Yeager x2319

Profits from 75th anniversary badge sales presented to 100 Club

During a brief ceremony at the 69th Annual State Conference of the Fraternal Order of Police in Phoenix on July 2, the 100 Club of Arizona was presented with a check for \$5,000 from members of FOP Lodge 32.

FOP Lodge 32 raised the money they gifted to the 100 Club through the sale of the Arizona Highway Patrol 75th Anniversary badges to DPS employees and retirees throughout this past year.

DPS Sergeant Lynn Ideus, DPS Sergeant John Ortolano, DPS Facilities Coordinator Sue LeHew, and Governor Janet Napolitano helped present Ms. Sharon Knutson-Felix with the sizable donation.

Ms. Knutson-Felix, the Executive Director of the 100 Club, said she "is always willing to receive a donation for the 100 Club" but was pleasantly surprised when the check she received amounted to 10 times more than the donation she often receives from corporations and individuals. Ms. Knutson-Felix said the money will help support a new scholarship program for line-of-duty disabled police, firefighters, and their families. Ms. Knutson-Felix said injured and disabled public safety members are often forgotten. She once heard a disabled public safety member say his family would be better off financially if he had died instead of becoming disabled on the job. Ms. Knutson-Felix said "I went home and cried after hearing those words" and she began working harder for injured public safety members.

FOP Lodge 32 raised the donation through the sale of the Highway Patrol 75th Anniversary badges to DPS present and retired employees. Ideus, the president of FOP Lodge 32, committed all the profits from the initial sale of 1,100 badges to the 100 Club of Arizona, after expenses were paid. The badges sold for \$40 apiece. The profit margin increased when the badge manufacturer absorbed the shipping cost.

Sergeant John Ortolano was the creative and driving force in securing specifications and bids for the special edition of the Arizona Highway Patrol badge. John commented "he had the easy part in the whole process - the real work and credit goes to Sergeant Coe Mitchell and Administrative Service Officer Sandy Othon" who coordinated the ordering, payment and distribution of the badges for employees and retirees throughout Arizona and the country.

Governor Napolitano was in attendance at the conference to receive the thanks and praise of the State Fraternal Order of Police for her continued support of law enforcement issues and legislation. The State Lodge presented Governor Napolitano with a Ha-



Check presentation

The profits from the sale of the Highway Patrol 75th Anniversary badges this year to DPS employees and retirees were recently presented to the 100 Club of Arizona. Presenting the \$5,000 check to Sharon Knutson-Felix (second from left), the Executive Director of the 100 Club of Arizona, were (from right) Facilities Coordinator Sue LeHew, Sgt. John Ortolano, Sgt. Lynn Ideus, Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano and Deputy Director David Felix.

waiian-print shirt depicting the USS Arizona Memorial. The memorial is the benefactor of Ms. Napolitano's efforts to raise funds to restore the deteriorating monument immortalizing the lives lost on the battleship Arizona on December 7, 1941. President Ideus also presented Ms. Napolitano a 75th Anniversary badge with her status as Governor inscribed on the badge rocker.

Ms. Knutson-Felix became actively in-

volved in the 100 Club of Arizona after her husband Doug Knutson, a DPS motor officer, was killed in the line of duty in 1998. Ms. Knutson-Felix now serves as Executive Director for the charitable foundation and is married to DPS Deputy Director David Felix.

The 100 Club of Arizona is a volunteer, benevolent, nonprofit, 501(c)(3) corporation committed to "Standing Behind the Men and Women Who Stand Behind the Badge."

Procurement Supervisor Linda Roberts dies following short battle with cancer

Funeral services for Linda Jane Roberts, 58, a procurement supervisor at DPS, were conducted Aug. 12 in Phoenix.



Linda Roberts

and among outside vendors for her smile and caring demeanor. It was recently said that "her smiling face warmed many a dull state meeting".

Roberts, a 23-year employee with the agency, passed away on August 9 following a short battle with lung and brain cancer.

Linda was well known at DPS

She was born on Long Island, NY on September 14, 1947 to George and Mildred Roberts. She moved to Arizona 35 years ago from New York.

Survivors include her daughters Lori Baldonado and Bonnie Shockley; grandchildren Clinton, Ashley, Amanda, Aleyna, Stephanie, Josh, Chelsea and Jessica; beloved poodle Bailey; brothers Rusty, David and Don; and of course her close friends at DPS.

Roberts will be extremely missed by her co-workers at DPS, especially those assigned to the agency's Finance Section.

Robert's family wishes to extend their sincere thanks to all at DPS who sent cards and notes to her during her illness as they provided her with great comfort.

DPS helps raid large, elaborate marijuana farm found near Payson

by Kellen Chavez, State Service Intern

In late July, DPS assisted in the seizure of one of the largest marijuana gardens ever found in Arizona.

The garden, located about 20 miles east of Payson in the Tonto National Forest, was initially discovered May 30 by a citizen who accidentally stumbled upon it.

At the time the garden was seized by DPS and other law enforcement agencies on July 29, it contained roughly 16,000 marijuana plants.

Authorities had been conducting surveillance on the garden for two months prior to the raid. The rugged terrain, elevation, water sources and seclusion offered by the locust tree forests and can-

On July 29, roughly 50 officers from law enforcement agencies around the state commenced the raid on the garden.

The raid was led by DPS SWAT after surveillance teams, which were positioned on the nearby rim, noticed three individuals working in the gardens.

Minutes after, however, a heavy fog set in making it impossible to find the workers amongst the trees. The garden, however, which could carry a worth upwards of \$30 million, was successfully cut off from the criminal world.

Johnson said, "Without all the agencies combined efforts this seizure wouldn't have been as successful as it was."

The workers left behind only one significant camping site which was used for everything concerning the worker's survival.

The camp was located near a creek where the workers bathed and maintained their hygiene. Clothes were strewn amongst the bushes along with shampoo bottles, razors and tubes of toothpaste.

Hundreds of canned food remains were scattered around the camping site and a lone car battery provided the power needed for the worker's stove and cell phone chargers.

A tiny shrine, located at the base of a tree near the camp, comprised of berries and three pictures of the Virgin Mary, was also abandoned by the workers.

The two types of marijuana which grow in Gila County are the Cannabis Sativa and Cannabis Indica. Both strains were present, however the taller, lighter Sativa strain was most prevalent.

The growing period for marijuana is 14 weeks and Johnson said that this crop of plants was still weeks away from the budding stage that generates the product which is packaged and sold illegally.

The locust tree forest where the garden was found serves as ideal place for these plants to grow because of the filtered sunlight they provide. Marijuana does not grow well in direct sunlight.

There was also an irrigation tube that was fed throughout the garden and provided the plants with the water needed to grow.

Four large areas in the garden were cleared of trees by the U.S. Forest Service and used for piling the marijuana plants after they were cleared by task force eradication teams.

As the plants were piled up, they were picked up by law enforcement helicopters, including two from DPS, and readied for destruction. All of the plants were removed from the garden within just a day of the July 29 raid on the operation.

During the week this issue of *The Digest* was going to press, three additional smaller pot farms were found in Arizona bringing the total number of farms discovered in the state this year to eight.



Marijuana farm

Clockwise from top left: A close up view of some of the marijuana found growing recently in the Tonto National Forest near Payson; a shot of DPS Sgt. Jack Johnson standing amidst the marijuana plants on the day the illegal pot farm was seized; a view of a shelter used by the suspects who tended to the illegal farm.

yons in the remote areas of Gila County have made the region an attractive destination for marijuana producers.

This garden was the fifth marijuana garden seized in Arizona this year, but the operation appeared to be at least twice the size of the previous four gardens combined.

Sgt. Jack Johnson of DPS' SWAT Team said the garden stretched at least one half mile in length and varied in width from 10 to 100 yards.

"During the surveillance portion of this investigation, we tried to identify the number of suspects tending to the garden, the size of the garden, possible camp locations and if any weapons were being used for defense," Johnson said.

Johnson said marijuana gardens are usually defended very aggressively when the plants in the garden are nearing maturity.

Letters

Director Vanderpool:

On July 4, 1996, Bessie Graham, an 84-year-old, was discovered by her son Jack Graham savagely beaten in her bedroom.

The autopsy revealed that Bessie died of strangulation and suffocation. She also suffered the horror(s) of a fractured hyoid bone, complete fractures of her right and left arm, fractures of her 5th and 6th right ribs and a fracture of her nose.

The Willcox Police Department meticulously prepared the crime scene. A single blood stain was located on her mattress and her fingernails were preserved for crime lab inspection.

A sweeping investigation of Willcox residents was conducted by the Willcox authorities, but despite such diligence, no suspects emerged.

In 2000, DPS Supervising Criminalist Curtis Reinbold tested the single blood stain and the finger nail scraping from the victims left hand.

He determined that neither of those items came from the victim but matched to an unknown DNA source.

In 2002, Reinbold submitted those items

through CODIS and a "cold hit" resulted in a match to Alejandro Gutierrez based upon a DNA sample taken after he was sentenced to a prison term in the Arizona Department of Corrections for an unrelated burglary committed in Pima County.

Confirmatory DNA testing was undertaken after a blood sample was obtained from Gutierrez via a court order.

In 2001, the Cochise County Attorney's Office indicted the Defendant for first degree murder. The case was set for trial.

A witness who had described a man near the victim's home in 1996 contacted the prosecutor, informing him that after undergoing hypnosis she believe she could possibly identify the Defendant.

The prosecutor requested a line-up and the witness positively identified the Defendant from the line-up.

After an evidentiary hearing the trial judge ruled post-hypnotic testimony inadmissible. The State sought appellate review of that ruling. The Court of Appeals, then the Supreme Court of Arizona, affirmed the trial court ruling. The case was dismissed without prejudice.

In 2005, I presented the case to a Grand Jury and the Defendant was again indicted for first degree murder.

After consulting with the victim's grieving adult children, a second trial was to be

scheduled. Extensive contact between this office and the family resulted in the offer of a plea to 2nd degree murder and all terms would be left at the Court's discretion.

On July 10, 2006, the Defendant was sentenced to 22 years, flat-time in the Arizona Department of Corrections to be served consecutively to his current sentence which would end in 2011.

Reinbold's attention to detail, perseverance and dedication to justice in this case was a major fact which produced justice for the Graham family 10 years after Bessie's heinous, cold-hearted and brutal murder.

I have worked with Reinbold extensively in the course of my 15 years as a prosecutor. He is an extremely valuable asset to the Arizona Department of Public Safety.

He informed me that this case was the Southern Regional Crime Lab's first "Cold Case Hit."

The Cochise County Attorney's Office and the Graham family are forever grateful that justice, although delayed, was in fact delivered in this case.

Reinbold's professionalism, dedication and commitment reflect the attributes shown in TV shows, books and movies.

In fact, Reinbold is a model criminalist whose real value cannot truly be "quantified." Without his diligence and determination, justice for Bessie and her family would never have occurred.

It was an honor, and a privilege to work with Reinbold on this case. I look forward to working with him in future cases!

Edward G. Rheinheimer
Cochise County Attorney

Dear Director Vanderpool:

My son was a passenger in a serious automobile accident on Interstate 40 in Arizona two weeks ago.

DPS Highway Patrol Officer Eugene Kuzia was the first on the scene and helped my seriously injured son with care and consideration that we are all very grateful for.

He was also very helpful, considerate and went out of his way in aiding us in recovering my son's personal propriety.

We wanted to thank and commend the Arizona Highway Patrol and Officer Kuzia for their thoughtful professionalism.

We are very impressed with your organization the sincere care that it shows.

Stephen, Linda and Derek Pitt
Larkspur, CO

Cop Swap

2003 Suzuki DR200SE, Good condition, 1500 miles, \$1000, Call Jamie @ (602) 377-1956.

A retiree honored

Retired DPS Officer R.T. Smith proudly holds the prestigious Frank Eyman Award he was recently given by Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 32. The award is given annually by FOP Lodge 32 to an outstanding member in recognition of his/her achievements and significant contributions to the Lodge. Smith, who retired from DPS in 1989 following 20 years of service, has been a member of FOP Lodge 32 for a stunning 36 years. He has held many offices and assignments within the Lodge and has proudly served on virtually every committee the Lodge has. He is also praised every year for helping chair, organize, and facilitate the annual FOP Lodge 32 Golf Tournament. Funds raised from that tournament provide funding for the vest reimbursement program initiated by Lodge 32 several years ago. The program helps Lodge members offset the cost of purchasing body armor. Members who apply are reimbursed up to \$50 for vest purchases exceeding DPS' reimbursement.



Inside DPS

40 YEARS OF SERVICE

Ballard, Bullion A., 0350, Investigator/Auditor

25 YEARS OF SERVICE

Dryer, Marie C., 3064, AZ POST Standards Compliance Specialist

Hahs, William F., 3065, Officer

Parkans, Dick S., 3077, Photographic Specialist

Slick, Gary D., 3069, Facilities Maintenance Technician

Villaneda, Johnny F., Sergeant

20 YEARS OF SERVICE

Heller, Edward E., 3880, Regional Crime Laboratory Manager, Tucson

NEW EMPLOYEES

Adolf, Samantha L., 6745, Criminal Records Specialist

Aguilar, Anna M., 6765, Criminal Records Specialist

Alvarado, Jacqueline J., 6767, State Service Intern

Bango, Dena M., 6777, Fingerprint Technician

Beck, David A., 6774, Police Communications Dispatcher

Braband, Susan M., 6779, Criminal Records Specialist

Bulger, Jeremy M., 6754, Cadet Officer

Bulloch, Brian J., 6770, Criminal Records Specialist

D'Souza, Christopher P., 6755, Cadet Officer

Dechant, John A., 6752, Officer

Desha, Patricia L., 6776, Administrative Assistant

Girvin, Salyna M., 6771, Police Communications Dispatcher

Gonzales, John, 6778, Fingerprint Technician

Green, Christina A., 6744, Laboratory Technician

Guerrero, Jaime B., 6756, Cadet Officer

Hamper, Kelly C., 6773, Police Communications Dispatcher

Hancock, Gunnar, 6775, Cadet Officer

Harnois, Nicholas D., 6757, Cadet Officer

Lindquist, Steven L., 6758, Cadet Officer

Marano, Christopher R., 6759, Cadet Officer

McDonald, Hugh E., 6748, Computer Network Operator

Millar, Kristi A., 6768, Fingerprint Technician

Ortega, Robert T., 6747, Human Records Analyst

Ortiz, Rick J., 6760, Cadet Officer

Putros, John D., 6751, Personal Computer Specialist

Reel, Brooke A., 6772, Police Communications Dispatcher

Rice, Meagan V., 6766, Police Communications Dispatcher

Riddle, Brandi N., 6769, Fingerprint Technician

Ries, Taylor C., 6761, Cadet Officer

Rogers, John A., 6753, Officer

Romanski, August R., 6762, Cadet Officer

Taylor, Tori J., 6749, Criminal Intelligence Analyst

Thomas, Cindistar, 6750, Laboratory Technician

Wells, Edward R., 6746, Financial Services Specialist

Williams, Curtis L., 6764, Cadet Officer

DEPARTURES

Carroll, Christine E., 5685, Administrative Assistant

Carter, Antoinette A., 5404, Financial Services Specialist

Espinosa, Carol S., 6739, Criminal Records Specialist

Harring, Kevin J., 6712, Cadet Officer

Lason, Adam J., 6052, Officer

Makavos, Miltiades V., 6462, Officer

McCorkle, Christopher S., 6628, Officer

Nyhart, Christopher D., 6593, State Service Intern

Pinamonti, Debra L., 6705, Administrative Assistant

Renouard, Jordan J., 6671, Associate Criminalist

Suggs Max B., 5854, Aviation Maintenance Assistant

Thornton, Adam M., 6763, Cadet Officer

Williams, Curtis L., 6764, Cadet Officer

Yavicoli, Joseph A., 6610, Officer

RETIREMENTS

Atwater, Jay K., 1434, Officer

Barnhart, Terrill G., 5581, RMIN Field Services Coordinator

Coleman, Deston F., 398, Major

Cothrun, John H., 1100, Sergeant II

Finnegan, Mary A., 3134, Executive Assistant

Freese, Roxanna L., 3643, Officer

Ginand, June A., 5187, Support Services Assistant

Girard, Gregory J., 1151, Sergeant II

Grasee, Wendell F., 532, Lieutenant

Hinderliter, Steven L., 453, Officer

Jeter, Jeffrey L., 3394, Officer

Landers, Larry D., 1075, Officer

Lizarraga, Larry M., 1454, Sergeant II

McNeese, Charles A., 1458, Officer

Mullenaux, Arthur R., 1841, Sergeant II

Quaintance, Don A., 1265, Sergeant II

Slechta, Ed J., 323, Sergeant II

Valente, Ruben O., 1605, Officer

Whitlow, William W., 804, Officer

Witter, David M., 328, Commander

Wright Jr., Charles L., 951, Sergeant II

BIRTHS

DPS Officer Mike Fulford and his wife, Becky, welcomed their first son, Gage Thomas, into the world on Father's Day - June 18. Gage weighed 8 pounds, 2 ounces and was born at Casa Grande Regional Medical Center. He joins sisters Samantha and Dakota.

OBITUARIES

Retired DPS Officer Doug Stine, Badge No. 714, passed away Aug. 14.

DPS Retiree Waite Blake, Badge No. 132, passed away July 23.

DPS Retiree Ben Shumway passed away July 16.

Retired DPS Motor Carrier Investigator Walker Hayes passed away in late June.

Melvin Talakte passed away June 28. He was the father of DPS Officer Jon Talakte and the brother of Retired Officer Kenneth Talakte. He was also the father-in-law of Stacy Talakte.

The father of DPS Motorcycle Officer Chad Johnson passed away June 29.

Walter Kehowski, husband of DPS retiree Judy Kehowski, passed away August 4.

Grasee ...

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also one of the early members who helped forge an innovative and cutting-edge enforcement model known as GITEM.

Much of Grasee's career was spent in arguably the most difficult assignment for law enforcement officers - Internal Affairs.

Because of his reputation for law enforcement excellence, the Department of Administration and Governor's Office requested that Grasee fill the vacant State Capitol Police Chief position. He accepted the position and held it up until his recent retirement. Over the years, Grasee has received recognition and numerous awards for his law enforcement service.

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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Down the Highways

July 1971

A Tucson man and his son have been charged with aggravated assault after threatening two DPS Highway Patrol officers.

Investigators said the trouble began July 25 when DPS Officer John Fink attempted to arrest the driver of a pickup truck for drunken driving. After the DUI suspect came to a stop in front of a tavern, he exited his vehicle and went into the tavern.

As he approached the bar, Fink said six or seven men came out of the tavern and started harassing him about making an arrest on private property. Fink then called for backup and DPS Officer Bill Cottrell arrived a few minutes later.

When the two officers went into the Tucson establishment, they were confronted by the father and son who were brandishing guns. A scuffle ensued and the two bar patrons were disarmed. No one was hurt although one of the guns discharged during the skirmish.

The two men and the drunken driver were arrested.

August 1976

Under DPS Director Vern Hoy, re-organization of the Department into a five-bureau concept became effective Aug. 1.

Lt. Col. Carroll Pennington will head the Highway Patrol Bureau while Lt. Col. Larry Thompson will be in charge of the Criminal Investigations Bureau. Lt. Col. Richard Shafer was named chief of the Administration Bureau while Bernard Flood and Lt. Col. William Arthur hold similar positions in the Telecommunications and Service Bureaus.

July 1981

Following a brief standoff, DPS Highway Patrol Officer Jack Lane arrested a man suspected of stabbing and killing another man at an Interstate 8 rest stop about four miles east of Gila Bend July 6.

A witness reported the stabbing to DPS communications who dispatched Officers Lane and Gerard Navarro. Lane spotted the suspect at another rest stop about 30 miles east of Gila Bend.

When Lane approached the rest area, the suspect returned to his car and was about to leave. When Lane drove into the rest area, the suspect stopped his vehicle and exited.

When it appeared that the suspect was going to run into some nearby hills, Lane leveled his shotgun and ordered the man to stop. The suspect obeyed the command.

August 1986

Arizona DPS Officers Frank Glenn and Charles Crawford captured the two-man team title at the National Police Revolver Championships conducted in Camp Dodge, Iowa, Aug. 30. Some 800 competitors participated in the event sponsored by the National Rifle Association.

Glenn and Crawford, who used .38-caliber revolvers en route to their title, are assigned to the DPS Armory in Phoenix.

July 1991

Sgt. Leo Villalpando received the department's first 40-year service pin from DPS Director Rick Ayars during award ceremonies July 9 in Phoenix. The sergeant, who started his career with the Arizona Highway Patrol in 1951, plans to retire from the

Department next month.

August 1991

DPS Lt. Col. David St. John, CIB assistant director, was selected by Arizona Gov. Fife Symington to head Project SLIM, a program aimed at trimming fat in state budgets.

Project SLIM (Statewide Long-term Improved Management) was created by Symington shortly after he took office. St. John expects the assignment to last 12 to 18 months.

During St. John's absence, Maj. Norm Beasley will be acting assistant director of CIB. Beasley was the bureau's chief of staff under St. John.

July 1996

On July 11, DPS Sgt. Larry Lizarraga of the Phoenix General Narcotics Unit received information that two subjects from Florida had arrived in Phoenix with more than \$20,000 in cash to be used for the purpose of purchasing two pounds of meth.

DPS officers located the pair at a Phoenix motel. After confronting them, the two admitted that they were in Phoenix to purchase meth from two California men.

The two were arrested and the \$20,000 was seized.

As for the California men, Lizarraga said officers served a search warrant at a downtown Phoenix motel the following day. After a forced entry into the room, officers found that the two were trying to flush the meth down the toilet. They were unsuccessful as the officers forcibly opened the door and confiscated the methamphetamine along with \$560 in cash. Both were also arrested.